

EMPACT: Lessons Learned and Science Moved Forward

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The U.S. EPA managed the Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) Program from 1997 to 2002. EMPACT's goal was to provide current information that the public could use to reduce adverse health risks from environmental problems. EMPACT was an opportunity to explore approaches to environmental monitoring, information management, data visualization, and organizational collaboration. The project allowed partnerships in over 60 metropolitan areas to define their own priority environmental concerns. The partners formed teams that conducted environmental monitoring, managed environmental data, and presented those data to their communities. All environmental media, including air, water, and soil were represented. EMPACT has had a positive impact by bringing scientific data into the hands of the public. It has allowed EPA to share science and technology on a local level.